

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 AF-06

EUR-12 SAJ-01 ARA-06 /093 W  
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O R 091210Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3311

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA: INDIAN POSITION

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SEN.I

CGOVERN, JAN. 9, FONMIN CHAVAN

OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS, UNLIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA DURING ITS EARLY STAGES. HE THOUGHT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION WAS "SINISTER", SAYING THAT IT REPRESENTED THE OLD STYLE OF COLONIALISM. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE SENATOR AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO LEAVE THE ANGOLANS ALONE TO HANDLE THEIR PROBLEMS AND GOVT, CHAVAN AGREED. HE SAID THAT "WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING FROM THE TIME OF THE LIMA CONFERENCE IN 1975 TO GET THEM TO COOPERATE" AND HAD CALLED ON THE OAU TO MOVE UNITEDLY ON THIS PROBLEM BUT SOME OF THE OAU STATES "FOR THEIR OWN REASONS" WOULD NOT. INDIA HAD NOT YET RECOGNIZED ANY OF THE CONTESTING PARTIES BUT WAS WAITING FOR THE OAU MEETING THIS WEEKEND TO SEE IF THERE WAS A CONSENSUS. INDIA WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW WHAT OAU "UNANIMOUSLY" DECIDED TO DO. IF THE OAU DIDN'T DECIDE, "IT WILL BE VERY DIFFI-

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CULT." NEVERTHELESS, SOUTH AFRICA'S ENTRANCE WITH ITS

OWN FORCES WAS SOMETHING ASIAN COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA FOUND VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

2. SPEAKING TO THE LOK SABHA JAN. 9, DEPUTY FONMIN B.P. DAS SAID THAT INDIA WAS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS AND THE OUT-COME OF THE OAU CONFERENCE BEFORE CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING THE ANGOLAN GOVT.

3. YUGOSLAV CHARGE TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT GOI HAD BEEN UNDER VERY HEAVY PRESSURE FROM MANY NON-ALIGNED STATES TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AND HE FELT IT WAS VERY LIKELY GOI WOULD DO SO AFTER OAU MEETING EVEN IF NO CLEAR CONSENSUS REACHED IN VIEW OF RECOGNITION OF MPLA BY OVER HALF OF OAU MEMBERS. HE ARGUED THAT GOI RECOGNITION WOULD BE RESULT OF INTENSE EFFORTS BY OTHER NON-ALIGNED. HE THOUGHT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT HAD, IF ANYTHING, ACTED TO INHIBIT GOI RECOGNITION OF MPLA.

4. COMMENT: CHAVAN'S REMARKS SUGGEST INDIANS MAY STILL BE UNDECIDED ON RECOGNITION IF OAU CONSENSUS NOT REACHED. WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF INDIANS HOLDING BACK IF OAU TAKES CLEARCUT POSITION, OR OF OUR BEING ABLE TO OFFER ANY ARGUMENTS WHICH WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN FACE OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO PRESS GOI OFFICIALS STRONGLY TO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION, PARTICULARLY IF AFRICAN STATES THEMSELVES ARE UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.  
SAXBE

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